Canada needs global talent more than ever before. Due to its rapidly aging population, low birth rate, and dynamic economy, Canada’s 21st-century prosperity relies upon its ability to effectively recruit human, social, and financial capital to its shores. The National Immigration Centre is designed to help. It is a forum for governments, employers, the business community, lawyers and consultants, regulatory bodies, service provider organizations, researchers, and other stakeholders with an interest in global talent to work together to enhance Canada’s immigration system.
Purpose of the national Immigration Centre

Canada’s embrace of global talent is one of our country’s competitive advantages. As other countries are becoming less inclusive, we are doubling down on our efforts to welcome immigrants, refugees, international students, and highly skilled workers. However, while our immigration system is admired by many around the world and is viewed as an exemplar on how to effectively select and integrate newcomers, we know we can do better. Now is our time to act.

Our purpose is to help ensure that Canada has the world’s best immigration system.

In support of our purpose, we:

- produce evidence-based, independent, and non-partisan immigration research and analysis;
- convene stakeholders to discuss immigration issues, challenges, opportunities, and solutions;
- raise public awareness on the nature and importance of immigration to Canada’s prosperity.

Annual Deliverables

- research reports
- Canadian Immigration Summit
- spring and fall meetings in rotating locations across Canada
- sponsorship recognition for members in our reports and events
- live webinars

The Conference Board of Canada Advantage

We have over 20 years of experience producing research on immigration and related knowledge areas. Our Economics Division has over 50 economists and researchers who possess a broad set of expertise and qualitative and quantitative research skills to tackle the demographic, economic, and labour market dimensions of immigration. Our applied research is practical, with a view to providing actionable suggestions to help guide improvements.

We convene hundreds of public and private sector stakeholders from across Canada and around the world to network and identify how to strengthen Canada’s immigration system. For over 10 years, we have hosted meetings across Canada to help executives address pressing immigration issues. Our annual Canadian Immigration Summit is the Conference Board’s largest event of the year, featuring over 300 participants.

Stay up to date on our latest research and events by visiting our website: www.conferenceboard.ca/nic.
Membership Levels and Benefits

The many benefits of joining the National Immigration Centre are listed below. Members are asked to choose one of four membership levels. Renewals of commitment are annual and are entirely contingent on your satisfaction with our performance.

**Champion—$50,000 per year**
- Inform entire direction of our research reports. Review draft reports and receive advance copies of final reports.
- Shape agendas of our Canadian Immigration Summit and spring and fall meetings.
- Logo recognition in all reports, meetings, and the Canadian Immigration Summit.
- Eight complimentary passes to our Canadian Immigration Summit and access to the non-profit rate for additional members of your organization to attend.
- Three complimentary passes to our spring and fall meetings.
- Complimentary live webinars per year for members of your entire organization to access.

**Gold—$12,500 per year**
- Inform entire direction of our research reports. Review draft reports and receive advance copies of final reports.
- Shape agendas of our Canadian Immigration Summit and spring and fall meetings.
- Logo recognition in all reports and spring and fall meetings.
- One complimentary pass to our Canadian Immigration Summit and access to a discounted rate ($200 off per person) for additional members of your organization to attend.
- One complimentary pass to our spring and fall meetings.
- Complimentary live webinars per year for members of your entire organization to access.

**Diamond—$25,000 per year**
- Inform entire direction of our research reports. Review draft reports and receive advance copies of final reports.
- Shape agendas of our Canadian Immigration Summit and spring and fall meetings.
- Logo recognition in all reports, meetings, and the Canadian Immigration Summit.
- Three complimentary passes to our Canadian Immigration Summit and access to a discounted rate ($300 off per person) for additional members of your organization to attend.
- Two complimentary passes to our spring and fall meetings.
- Complimentary live webinars per year for members of your entire organization to access.

**Non-Profit/Small Business—$5,000 per year**
- Participate in research discussions at our spring and fall meetings.
- Receive advance copies of final reports.
- Shape agendas of our Canadian Immigration Summit and spring and fall meetings.
- One complimentary pass to our Canadian Immigration Summit and access to a discounted rate ($200 off per person) for additional members of your organization to attend.
- One complimentary pass to our spring and fall meetings.
- Complimentary live webinars per year for members of your entire organization to access.
Our Leadership Team

**Darren De Jean**  
Executive Director

Darren’s responsibilities at The Conference Board of Canada include leadership of the Custom Economic Research practice as well as Human Resources and Immigration Knowledge Areas. Darren brings over two decades of business development, strategy, workplace transformation, and consulting experience to the Conference Board. Most recently, he was the Director of Advisory Services for Canada’s Business Development Bank where he was responsible for the creation, implementation, and growth of various regional practices. Darren has also been a founding member of two start-ups including a venture capital funded, publicly trading search technology company. He has also consulted with numerous organizations from early-stage technology to high-growth multinationals across various industries.

Darren has a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Lakehead University. He is also a Mechanical Engineering Technologist Graduate from Lakehead University and a Pure and Applied Science Graduate from John Abbott College in Montreal.

**Pedro Antunes**  
Chief Economist

Pedro Antunes is the thought leader and spokesperson for the Conference Board’s suite of economic forecast products, as well as other reports and economic indicators that relate to Canada and its regions. Mr. Antunes has provided expert testimony before parliamentary committees. He makes numerous presentations on economic topics and dialogues with Canadian leaders, the public and media about issues important to Canada.

Mr. Antunes joined the Conference Board in 1991 after working with the Canadian Forecasting Group at the Bank of Canada. In addition to his contribution to regular forecast products, Mr. Antunes led research on the impact of demographic change on the financial sustainability of public health care, productivity and other issues affecting the long-term economic growth for Canada and its provinces. He also worked on several international projects, helping decision-makers in Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and Ukraine develop appropriate forecasting and policy analysis tools.

Pedro is fluent in both official languages. He is married with one son and enjoys hikes with his dog and playing soccer.  
Mr. Antunes holds an M.A. (Economics) from Queen’s University and a B.A. (Honours Economics) from Bishop’s University.
Jo-Leen Folz
Network Officer

Jo-Leen is Network Officer for the Council on Corporate Aboriginal Relations, Centre for the North and National Immigration Centre. Jo-Leen works closely with the Directors of each Centre in key functions such as business development, client relationship management, website maintenance, agenda building and coordination of research Centre meetings. In addition to her roles within the three Centre's, Jo-Leen is an active member of the Health and Wellness Committee, Human Resources Committee and on the Steering Committee for the Council Community of Practice at The Conference Board.

Jo-Leen is married with 2 daughters and loves to play volleyball, downhill ski and go camping with her family in the summer months.

Jo-Leen is a college graduate with over 15 years of work experience in office administration and project coordination.